Sending of Indian Army Commandos to foreign countries

2. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lend Indian Army's Commandos to other countries who are on friendly terms with our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the operational cost of such commando operations would be met?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

More powers to coast guard

3. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give more teeth to coast guard so as to enable it intercept and inspect all ships within the country's exclusive economic zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other country has given this kind of power to their coast guard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The United Statees of America in accordance with its Maritime Transportation Safety Act 2002 has empowered United States

coast guard to intercept and board suspicious vessels or any other vessles intending to enter their ports, at their jurisdictional waters.

Appointment of more women doctors in the Army

4. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry propose to appoint more women doctors in the Army looking at the increasing number of aspirants in the force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of women doctors in the Indian Army as on 1st December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Lady Medical Officers in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) are being recruited, based on Service requirement, through the prescribed procedure, on a regular basis.

(c) The number of women Medical Officers in Armed Forces Medical Services (Army, Navy & Air Force) is presently 756, out of which women Medical Officers in the Army Medical Corps are 578.

Benefits to Kargil war widows

5. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after five years of Kargil operation many war widows have not got any benefit from State/Central Government although a lot of things were announced at that time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of war widows who are still to get the due benefits; and

(c) by when the remaining war widows will get their dues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Wives of Kargil martyrs have been paid an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldier. They have also been given Rs. 5 lakhs for housing and Rs. one lakh per child or Rs. 2 lakhs per family for education of children from the National Defence Fund.